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Borough of Dukinfield

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1946

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BOROUGH OF DUKINFIELD

Public Health Committee

1946

Chairman : Alderman A. Ashton

Deputy Chairman : Councillor A. Bown

The Mayor (Councillor J. Kenworthy)
Councillor Andrew
,, N. T. Ashton
,, T Ashton
,, Brown
,, Fitton
,, Hinchliffe
,, Hitchen

Councillor Howard
,, King
,, Senior
,, Shaw
,, Shirley
,, Sumner
,, Thornton
,, Turner
,, Wright

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Dukinfield.

To the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dukinfield.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Herewith my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1946, based upon my predecessor's statistics, records and reports.

The condition of overcrowding shows no great change. This must always be a matter of grave import when the health of the Borough has to come under review. The overcrowding is further aggravated by poor housing conditions in many cases. 26 new Corporation houses were tenanted during 1946.

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious diseases though measles, whooping cough and pneumonia show an increase on last year. Diphtheria, on the other hand, shows a very encouraging decrease in the number of notifications, due to the Cheshire County Council's immunisation campaign, the total number of cases notified being only 4 as opposed to 18 last year. Whooping cough might be attacked in the same manner if the recent field trials being carried out show results that would justify immunisation for diphtheria and whooping cough at one and the same operation. 8 deaths have occurred from pnuemonia.

There is a significant increase in notification of new cases of tuberculosis in the Borough. This increase is just over 33⅓% on last year's figures. Recent reports from Concentration Camps in Germany give statistics which seem to indicate that tuberculosis spreads more readily under conditions of underfeeding than overcrowding, though both are contributory factors.

The death rate shows a fall on last year's figures and the birth rate an increase.

Further details will be found elsewhere in this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Extract from Vital Statistics.

Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total
No. of Deaths ...	123	125	248

Death Rate—13·5

Births.

No. of Live Births	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	165	137	302
Illegitimate ...	10	7	17
TOTAL	175	144	319

No. of Still Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	9	6	15
Illegitimate ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	9	6	15

Birth Rate—17·4.

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	12	7	19
Illegitimate ...	1	Nil	1
TOTAL	13	7	20

Infantile Mortality rate—62·6.

Population.

1931 Census	19,311
1946 Registrar General's Estimate ...	18,240

Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE	No. of Cases notified	No. of cases Admitted to I.D. hos.	No. of Deaths
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Erysipelas	3	2	—
Scarlet Fever and Scarletina ...	23	16	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	19	1	8
Whooping Cough	35	3	—
Measles	69	1	—

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary—

No. of new cases notified 14

No. of deaths (old and new cases) 4

Non-Pulmonary—

No. of new cases notified 8*

No. of deaths (old and new cases) 2*

* N.B.—Included in these totals are two cases of tubercular meningitis.

There has been a further substantial increase in the notification of new cases. This is possibly a result of underfeeding aud overcrowding. Should this be the case, the numbers notified will increase or remain at this level for a number of years, until contacts are found and dealt with, and better feeding and housing provided.

Infectious Diseases—Classification

Age	Diphtheria	Erysipeles	Sc. Fever/Scarlatina	Pneumonia/all forms	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pulmonary T.B	Non-Pulmonary T.B.	TOTAL
Under 1 year			1	1	1	4			7
Age 1 year					4	8			12
Age 2 years	1		1	1	10	9			22
Age 3 years			2	1	8	21			32
Age 4 years			2		5	7			14
5-9 years			12	1	7	18			38
10-14 years			2			2		4	8
15-19 years	1		2	2			4	1	10
20-34 years	2		1	2			4	2	11
35-44 years				3			4	1	8
45-64 years		2		6			2		10
65 years and over		1		2					3
Total ...	4	3	23	19	35	69	14	8	175

Diphtheria—Classification

	Sex		Isolation		School, Employment, etc.		Total
Age	Male	Female	Hospital	Home	Under School Age	Over School Age	
2 years	1		1		1		1
15 years	1		1			1	1
22 years		1	1			1	1
25 years		1	1			1	1
	2	2	4	—	1	3	4

List of Deaths occurring in and belonging to the Borough of Dukinfield during the year 1946

CAUSE	Males	Females
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	1
Influenza	—	2
Cancer and other malignant diseases	21	24
Intracranial vascular lesions	19	10
Heart Disease	40	43
Other circulatory diseases	—	1
Bronchitis	6	12
Pneumonia	5	3
Other respiratory diseases	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	2	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other digestive diseases	2	4
Nephritis	—	8
Maternal causes, excluding Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	—	1
Congenital malformations	4	1
Premature Birth	4	3
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—
Other violent causes	4	—
All other causes	8	8
	123	125

Milk Samples

There are 8 graded farms in the Borough and 7 non-graded Farms.

During the year, 48 milk samples were sent for analysis, 31 of which were entirely satisfactory. The presence of B.Coli was detected in 11 of the samples : 4 failed to pass the requirements of the methylene blue test and two samples failed both the methylene blue and B.Coli tests. All samples were found to be free from tuberculosis.

In addition to these samples, the County Council Inspector also took samples periodically ; the results of these samples are not available in this department.

Water Supply

The quality and quantity of the Borough water supply during 1946 were entirely satisfactory. 27 samples were tested by the Joint Water Board's officers, with satisfactory results. Calcium Carbonate was added to the water before filtration but no samples were taken to test for plumbo-solvency. No form of contamination presented itself.

It is estimated that a population of 19,200 was supplied direct to houses from the public water mains. None of the population is supplied by means of standpipes.

A copy of a chemical analysis is appended.

Chemical Samples

Supply	Brushes Reservoir
Filtrate Main Tap Samples taken on	January 28th, 1946
pH value	7·2
Colour in 2 ft. glass tube mm Hazen sol.	10

Analysis	Grains per Imp. Gallon
Free Acidity as CO_2	0·13
Free Alkalinity } as $CaCO_3$ ...	0·91
Combined Alkalinity }	
Hardness by Soap test	
Carbonate Hardness ...	0·9
Non-Carbonate Hardness ...	2·8
Total...	3·7
Combines Chlorine CL_2	1·00
Nitrates—Nitric Nitrogen as N_2 ...	0·007
Nitrites—Nitrous Nitrogen as N_2 ...	nil
Free and Saline Ammonia } as NH_3	0·0067
Albuminoid Ammonia }	0·0053
Oxygen absorbed Test 4 hours at 27°C... ...	0·036
Manganese	0·006
Other Metals	nil
Silica (SiO_2)	0·63
Residual Alumina (AL_2O_3) ...	0.009
Alumina as Sulphate of Alumina ...	0·07
Lead as Pb taken up in 24 hours ...	0·028

REPORT.—This sample is quite satisfactory.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This service continues to be administered by the Cheshire County Council.

Venereal Diseases.

This service is administered by the Cheshire County Council. The majority of the Borough cases receive treatment at Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, some are referred to Manchester and others attend these hospitals for their own convenience.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The County Council's scheme has been continued during the year, 119 schoolchildren were given primary injections during the year and 8 children were given a re-inforcing dose.

Out of an estimated total of 3,770 children below the age of 15 resident in the Borough, approximately 1,750 were immunised against diphtheria at some time before reaching the age of 15.

Not one of the notified cases of diphtheria had been immunised, so far as is known, and three of the cases were in people over school age.

There were no deaths in the Borough during 1946 as a result of Diphtheria.

N. LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1946

To the Mayor and Councillors of the Borough of Dukinfield,

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

1946 was a particularly busy year in the Health Department, due mainly to the general housing shortage and the lack of materials to carry out essential repairs. Approximately 1,000 complaints were received by the Department.

One workman is employed in disinfestation and disinfection of rooms, releasing of blocked drainage, cleansing of public conveniences etc., and the sale of disinfectants, D.D.T., etc. During the year D.D.T. has been extensively used by the townspeople in the eradication of flies and other vermin.

The Rodent Operator has been employed in treating private houses for rodent infestation. A sewer maintenance treatment was carried out during the year, with very satisfactory results.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. BUCKLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

Visits and Inspections

(a) General Sanitation.

Refuse Disposal...	6	
Outworkers	6	
Drainage...	209	
Water Supply	7	
Bakehouses	17	
Public Conveniences	39	
Factories and Workshops	34	
Cinemas	8	
Rats and Mice	9	
Stables and Piggeries	8	
Schools...	1	
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	69	413

(b) Housing—Public Health Act, 1936

Primary Visits...	297	
Re-inspections	2,076	
Inspections—verminous premises	2	
Re-inspections—verminous premises...	2	
Miscellaneous Visits	2	2,379

Housing—Housing Act, 1936

Primary Visits...	13	
Re-inspections	22	35

(c) Meat and Food Inspections.

Restaurants	1	
Ice-Cream Premises	5	
Slaughterhouses, (visits to)	115	
Butchers' Shops	19	
Greengrocers' Shops	5	
Cowsheds	76	
Dairies	42	
Food preparing premises	2	
Milk Sampling	20	
Grocers' Shops	13	
Fishmongers' Shops	4	
Miscellaneous Food Visits	5	307

(d) Infectious Disease.

No. of Primary Investigations	30	
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	33	63
TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS		3197

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 314

   (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose 2100

2. Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 274

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurous to health as to be unfit for human habitation 9

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—

1. No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 302

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.—

1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... 274

Remedy of defects during the year after service of formal notice:—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices —

(a) By Owners 23

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

Notices Served—Public Health Act

Number of informal notices served ...	274
,, ,, ,, ,, complied with.	302
Number of Statutory Notices served ...	40
,, ,, ,, ,, complied with.	23

Disinfection and Disinfestation Etc.

No. of rooms disinfected– infectious disease	81
,, ,, disinfested—verminous premises	134
Number of blocked water closets released ..	1394
,, ,, ,, house gullies ,, ...	2177
,, ,, ,, house drains ,, ...	3240

Meat and Food Inspection

Milk Supply

In conjunction with the County Conncil, 48 samples of milk were taken. In the Medical Officer's section of the report, there will be found a paragraph concerning the results of the sampling. In addition to samples taken by me, the milk sampling is continued as a routine measure by the County Council.

Farms

The 15 Farms in the Borough have been inspected at intervals during the year. One farm produces Tuberculin Tested Milk, seven farmsproduce AccreditedMilk and the remainder non-graded milk.

Meat Inspection

ANIMALS INSPECTED.

Cows	694
Heifers	132
Bulls and Bullocks	373
Calves	460
Sheep and Lambs	4501
Pigs	47
	6207

The approximate total weight of Meat and Offal destroyed amounts to:-

Tubercular	31,298 lbs.
Non-tubercular	6,770 lbs.
TOTAL...	38,068 lbs.

Meat and Offals Destroyed—Summary

TUBERCULAR—

CATTLE—Carcases, Etc

Carcases and all offals of 27 cows	11,970 lbs.	
Part carcases of 24 cows ...	2,559 lbs.	
Carcases and all offal of 4 heifers	1,925 lbs.	
Part carcases of 3 heifers ...	308 lbs.	
Carcase and all offal of 1 bullock	507 lbs.	—17269 lbs

PIGS—Carcases, Etc.

Carcase and all offal of 1 pig ...	278 lbs.	—278 lbs.

Meat Inspection—continued

CATTLE—Offals, Etc.

Heads and Tongues ...	143—4,914 lbs.		
Pairs of Lungs	352—3,547 lbs.		
Livers	46— 554 lbs.		
Diaphragms	59— 205 lbs.		
Hearts	8— 28lbs.		
Spleens	43— 80 lbs.		
Mesenteries and Intestines	148—4,177 lbs.		
Udders	3— 59 lbs.		
Kidneys	1— 4 lbs.	—13,568 lbs.	

PIGS—Offals, Etc.

Plucks	6— 65 lbs.	
Heads and Tongues ...	4— 105 ,,	
Mesenteric Fats	1— 1 ,,	
Lungs	2— 12 ,,	——183lbs.

TUBERCULAR MEAT—TOTAL ... 31,298 lbs.

NON-TUBERCULAR—

CATTLE—Carcases, Etc.

Part Carcases of 2 cows	Bruising—	60 lbs.	
,, ,, ,, 3 cows	Abscesses -	346 ,,	
Carcases and all Offal of 2 cows ...	Dropsy—	749 ,,	
Carcase and all Offal 1 cow ...	Moribund—	473 ,,	
Part carcase of 1 cow	Inflammation—	192 ,,	
,, ,, 1 calf	Oedema—	14 ,,	
Carcase and all Offal of 1 calf ...	Oedema—	33 lbs.	—1,867 lbs.

PIGS—Carcases, Etc.

Part carcase of 1 pig.....	Bruising—	5 lbs.	
,, ,, ,, ...	Abscesses—	10 lbs.	—15 lbs.

SHEEP—Carcases

Carcases & all Offal of 4 sheep..	Moribund—	178 lbs.	—178 lbs.

CATTLE—Offals, Etc.

Livers	129—Cirrhosis	1568 lbs.
Livers	75—Abscesses	902 lbs.
Livers	103—Angioma	1236 lbs.
Livers	13—Ech. Cysts	156 lbs.
Lungs, pairs of ...	1—Dropsy	10 lbs.
,, ,, ...	10—Pleurisy	100 lbs.

Meat Inspection—continued

Lungs, pairs of ...	4—Ech. Cysts	40 lbs.	
,, ,, ...	1—Abscesses	10 lbs.	
Stomachs ...	2—Abscesses	40 lbs.	
Hearts	21—Pericarditis	85 lbs.	
Heads and Tongues	1 - Abscesses	35 lbs.	
Kidneys	4—Abscesses	16 lbs.	
Kidneys	3—Nephritis	11 lbs.	
Head, calf ...	1—Abscesses	4 lbs.	
Diaphragm ...	1—Abscesses	4 lbs.	
Mesenteries ...	2—Abscesses	80 lbs.	
Udders	4—Mastitis	47 lbs.	—4344 lbs.
SHEEP—Offals, Etc.			
Livers	92—Flukes	366 lbs.	—366 lbs
NON-TUBERCULAR MEAT—TOTAL			6,770 lbs

Diseases of Animals Acts—Anthrax Order 1938.

During the year, 3 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported to the Department (2 pigs and 1 cow). In none of these cases was Anthrax confirmed.

Rodent Control.

117 complaints were investigated for rodent infestation and of these 45 were successfully treated for rodent infestation and 56 for mice infestation ; in the remainder of the cases no infestationwas found.

The Bradley Hurst Sewage Works and the Corporation Refuse Tip received considerable attention during the year and it is estimated that approximately 4,000 rats were killed during the treatments.

A house-to-house survey was taken throughout the year and any necessary treatment was undertaken immediately.

Factories Act 1937.

One Notice was served under Section 4 of the above Act and the necessary work carried out. This section of the Act relates to dangerous fumes, etc.

Under Section 9 of the Act, relating to the cleanliness and general condition of sanitary conveniences, 16 notices were served and in all cases the improvements suggested have either been carried out or plans for reconstruction submitted to the local authority for the work to be done.

6 Notices were served under the section relating to Means of Escape in case of fire (Section 34) two of which were complied with.

During the year, the Department was notified that six persons were carrying out business as outworkers in the town. These people were visited and premises found to be satisfactory.

L. BUCKLEY,
Sanitary Inspector.